

VALDEZ, ALASKA, PROVES MAGNET TO GOLD-HUNGRY HORDE FROM THE U. S.

VALDEZ, Alaska, March 11.—The gold-hungry horde is fast filling this staid old town and the militant, keen-eyed stranger can already count heads with the old timer feeling that the latter has but a slight advantage in number. It is believed that in a short time new arrivals will be far in the majority and Valdez will then resemble the regular old-fashioned boom camp. Every boat sailing for this port has been selling its last accommodation days in advance of its sailing date and it is evident to those who have been watching this section of the country that the coming summer will witness the greatest rush since the days of Dawson. Mixed in the crowd now arriving are numbers of men who have spent their last cent for passage to the new Eldorado and these will undoubtedly suffer many hardships until the snow leaves the ground. There are others, called by the authorities, "undesirables," who, lured by the tales of riches and the impending "rush," have come with the hope of reaping their own peculiar harvest. Things have changed in this country during the last decade, and such as these will find in many instances, that the days of the parasite are fast receding.

The prospector who has a ledge with a good showing will be looked upon with envy this summer, as reports are reaching here from the outside, that large capital has its eyes on this section, and its representatives will be here in high-boated numbers inspecting the lodes and leads of the Chugach range. It is stated that the South African

Gold Mining company, a corporation backed by unlimited wealth, is preparing to send its mining engineers into this section. This company has recently purchased ninety square miles of dredging ground in the Dawson district and is preparing. It is said, to spend millions of dollars in development work.

There is great activity in stocks at present of a purely local nature, but with the advent of a regular mining exchange, which is in the process of formation, there will probably be a remarkable increase in the better buys.

The devotees of placer are still scouring the flats on snow shoes, and it is safe to bet that there will be little unstaked ground in the next sixty days. Joe Burke, formerly editor of the Valdez Daily Prospector, has invented a test drill which is exceedingly practicable to a depth of 12 or 15 feet. It is a piece of two-inch pipe with short lugs pointing surfaceward, which is driven into the gravel then pulled up. A considerable amount of gravel sticks to the lugs, which is panned.

Mr. Burke says that he has obtained better than 20 cents to the pan wherever he has driven his test drill. It is generally conceded by mining men that there are great dredging possibilities on the Valdez flats, but it will require immense outlay of capital to thoroughly test the ground and install dredges.

The streets of this camp are a revelation to those who have seen the Dawson and Goldfield days. There is the same rush and incessant hurry of citizens; the same scramble for ground and the inevitable real estate boom.

ORIGINALITY OF THE WONDER SOCIAL SET

"DUTCH LUNCH" BECOMES POPULAR AT SOCIETY FUNCTIONS AT WONDER.

For downright sociability, regardless of the rules and regulations set down in the book of etiquette, the people of Wonder are hard to beat. It has been the custom here for a long time for the socially inclined, which means nearly everybody, to get together informally at least twice a month and have a dance. At these dances everything is done very much on the co-operative plan. Two or three of the younger men will clean out the hall, fill and light the lamps, rustle some wood, and warm up the building. Volunteer musicians bring their instruments, tune up, and the fun commences. Recently a new idea was introduced, which has become quite popular. Some one suggested that a lunch would add to the festivity, and the idea took. Everybody chipped in and a committee was sent out to invest the fund. They returned with a Dutch lunch in full bloom. The menu consisted of canned lobsters, crabs, shrimps, sardines, mustard, cheese, crackers, beer and limburger cheese. Though the latter article was a somewhat daring innovation for a ballroom, it is surprising how well it worked. Nearly everybody took a crack at it. The Dutch lunch idea met with general approval, and it has now become a regular thing at these social functions. A few still shy at the limburger, but most of them seem to like it.—Wonder News.

PATRICK JURY FAILS TO AGREE

The jury having the case of L. L. Patrick under consideration in the federal court failed to agree after being out all night and was discharged by Judge Farrington Wednesday.

This is the second trial of Patrick on a charge of fraudulent use of the mails in connection with the sale of Goldfield mining stocks. The former jury failed to reach an agreement.

Attorney Key Pittman represented Patrick in both cases, while United States District Attorney Platt handled the case of the government. Attorney Pittman demanded a retrial as soon as possible and the case was set for next Tuesday.

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NO MORE GOVERNMENT ENVELOPES TO BE ISSUED

Postmaster Hitchcock has announced that the government will discontinue the printing of stamped envelopes and recommends that the same be done by local newspapers and by special permit for the towns nearest the newspaper where a town has no paper of its own. No large town will be permitted to have a monopoly on the printing of envelopes to the detriment of the smaller newspapers.

A uniform scale of prices will be prepared by the postoffice department and insisted upon or the newspapers will not be sold stamped envelopes for printing.

The scale of prices will be such that a reasonable profit can be made by the firm printing them it is asserted.

The department will also make a ruling that no first-class mail will be allowed transmitted through the mails until it has a return card written or printed thereon.—Exchange.

MISJUDGED.

A young woman rushed up to a young man in Superior avenue the other day and shook hands with him cordially. "I have a confession to make to you," she gurgled. "You won't believe it, but I always thought you drank."

The young man longed for a clove and tried not to blush.

"And now," she pursued, "I find that you are actually a temperance worker. Now I see you're trying to be modest and deny it, but you can never fool me again. I overheard my brother saying, in his slangy way, that you were a great booze fighter. Oh, he was in earnest. Why, he said you had punished more of the stuff than any ten men in Cleveland. I'm proud to

know you. Will you ever pardon me for misjudging you?" She was gone before he got through choking.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

WHAT RECLAMATION BY WATER MEANS

What reclamation by irrigation means to the country is strongly indicated by the recent announcement of the United States reclamation service that \$48,000,000 is to be expended during the next four years in furthering the work of the government in reclaiming semi-arid and arid lands in the west. What an enormous amount this is may perhaps be more easily comprehended when it is remembered that it averages an expenditure of \$1,000,000 a month.

While this expenditure would pay for five battleships, it is in the case of the reclamation service only a loan to be returned to the United States treasury and re-employed for reclamation work. The settler on a government project has ten years in which to pay for his land and water, while the returns under irrigation are in many cases so abundant that one or two crops will repay the cost. The new markets thus opened are of great importance to merchants, manufacturers and financiers, causing them to be greatly interested in the National Irrigation congress in Chicago.

For drink and tobacco we paid more money last year than ever before in the history of the country. The taxes handed over to the federal government amounted to \$208,000,000, in addition to the sum paid producers and the profits of vendors. As liquors and tobacco may be estimated luxuries, the vast sum voluntarily expended in obtaining them is a heavy item in the cost of living which might with advantage be greatly reduced.

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